## WOMEN IN THE HOSPITALS

Bad Conditions That Prevailed Before They Came on the Scene.

Repulsive Duties Heroically Performed Under Stress and Strain, and Sometimes at the Risk of Life.

Some poet once ventured to remark that "The world knows nothing of its greatest men," and he might have added with truth, "less of its noblest women." Solomor's song to his aweetheart, the church, is not too highly attuned for praise of the splendid women who have spent their lives in endeavor to lighten the burdens of bumanity, but not many of these women have found enduring places in history. More particularly is this the case in the history of the American people. Among women of all countries and climes throughout the ages of human history, an intense and passionate love of country, holding for the time all other ties in abeyance, has been a common trait of character, but in no instance was this ever so conclusively demonstrated as in the war of the rebellion. It is impossible to overestimate the amount of consecrated work they did. It was not such a hard matter at the first for men, buoyed up with enthusiasm, martial music and the plaudits of the people to march to the cannon's mouth under iron hail, but for the women who waited in desolate homes it was the most exquisite suffering. For them the sun that set on Sumter at the end of that mid April day carried out into starless night the light of their lives. Men had no time to think of danger until it was past or eternally too late. In the dull round of existence in the North, where all energies were paralyzed for the first few months, days of anxiety succeeded sleepless nights, and corroding suspense ate its way into tender women's hearts, leaving sears that time can never efface. Then the reaction set in. After giving all they had to give, husbands and lovers, fathers and sons to feed the monster of civil war, they proceeded to organize rehef for them, and they did it with a selfcontrolled and rational consideration of the wisest and best means of accomplishing their purpose which astonished the world. There was visible no mawkish sentimentality, no spasmodic display of self-emulating pride. They demonstrated American women to be in high degree the products and representatives of a new social era and a new political development. They forgot the ban of sex, the bar of social custom. All other interests were overshadowed by the one idea-loyalty to the flag and succor for its defenders.

There were many women who shouldered muskets and carried colors while storming a redoubt or rallying stampeding forces; who marched through Southern swamps and bivouacked on battle fields, but while the loyal heart will always applaud the intense and passionate love of country which led to these manifestations of though less demonstrative manifestation of patriotic devotion than this is that which prompted women to go among the sick and wounded, to minister to them in the field and hospital. To do this required a force of character of a rare kind, said one who was speaking of the noble work of the hospital nurses. They were really heroines. They conquered their feminine sensibility at the sight of blood and wounds; their native antipathy to disorder, confusion and violence, subdued the rebellious delicacy of their more exquisite senses, lived coarsely, and dressed and slept rudely; they studied the caprices of men to whom their ties were simply human, men who were often ignorant, feebleminded and raving with pain and fever or disgusting with neglected wounds and mangled limbs. Their position was always equivocal, open to criticism and suspicion. and could be justified only by their undeniable and conspicuous merits.

BEGINNING THE WORK. Though war had long been talked, nobody believed that it would come to conflict of arms, and Bull Run's defeat shook up the North like an earthquake's shock. It also demonstrated the utter inadequacy of the government hospital service in the event of prolonged strife, which very few anticipated even then, but the women of the North had been organizing for emergency and came directly to the front. Just five days after the fall of Sumter a soldiers' and society was organized in Cleveland. When the June roses bloomed every loyal State in the Union had societies of the same nature, and the Secretary of War, after much importuning, had given grudging recognition to the great organization known as the Sanitary Commission, of which institution women were the mainspring and the mechanism. The government seemed to see dimly that it had large contract on its hands and that women might do "to fill up the chinks." Thus it came about that Miss Dorothea L. Dix, of Worcester, Mass., was appointed by Secretary of War Cameron as superintendent of female nurses. Miss Dix was a unique character. She had spent several years in investigating the condition of prisons, insane asylums and poor houses, and was devoted to philanthropic work. She was not a large woman, and looked to have a delicate constitution. She was gifted with a low, sweet voice and had winning ways, and her face at that time retained a rempant of girlish beauty. She was the embodiment of push and energy, and had very little use for men, while they had even less use for her, and the two never could work in harmony. They were probably jealous of her power, which was great; certainly impatient of her authority, and accused her of being arbitrary, opinionated, severe and capricious. She was probably all of these, but, despite that fact, she was, withal, sure to be right, and very few men, or women either, reached her ideal. Miss Dix received no salary, but devoted herself to this grand work without remuneration. As superintendent of female army nurses Miss Dix was authorized to receive all applications and pass upon the qualifications of those desirous of taking upon themselves the duties of hospital service.

In the mighty endeavor to push the aid work much of the effort was misdirected. and committees were finally appointed to Visit the hospitals in and around Washington and see what could be done to remedy existing evils in management of hospital supplies. Mrs. A. H. Hoge and Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, of Chicago, were among the number. Mrs. Livermore said of her tour smong the hospitals: "The awful condition of the wounded and diseased soldiers was appalling. The hospital arrangements in the early part of the war were pitiful and inadequate, as were the facilities for transportation. Any building was considered fit for a hospital, and the suffering endured by army patients in the unsuitable butiothes into which ther were crowded during the first year of the war can never

Before the war there was no such estabhishment as a general hospital in the army. All military hospitals were post hospitals. and the largest contained forty beds. There was no trained efficient medical staff employed by the government, and no wellinstructed nurses nor sick-diet kitchens. Neither was there a prompt supply of proper medicines, or means of humanely transporting the sick and wounded. The war had been in progress nearly a

year and a balf. Bull Run had been followed by Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shilob, Fort Pillow, Fair Oaks, Manassas and Antietam. Notwithstanding the awful slaughter of Union men in the battles mentioned, the government seemed to absolutely paralyzed so far as looking after the sanitary condition if its troops was concerned. A soldier wrote from the camp hospital near Washington, under date Nov. 12, 1861: "Our hospitals are so bad that the men fight

cared for in camp with their comrades than in hospitals. The food is the same in both places, and the medical treatment the same, when there is any. In the hospital the sick men he on rotten straw; in the camp we provide clean hemlock or pine boughs, with the stems cut out, or husks when we can 'jerk' them from a secesh cornfield. In the hospitals the nurses are convalescent soldiers, so nearly sick themselves that they ought to be in the wards. and from their feebleness they are selfish and sometimes inhuman in their treatment of patients."

MRS. LIVERMORE'S INVESTIGATION. The letter was written while McClellan was still "strategizing" and the war hardly begun. In December, 1862, Mrs. Livermore found that this state of affairs still continued. She visited the hospital camp near Alexandria, known as "Camp Misery," and found there 12,600 convalescent soldiers suffering for lack of food, clothing and fuel; in another camp hospital 800, and in all the military hospitals around Washington, numbering about forty, she found 30,000 sick and wounded soldiers, to whom the attention bestowed on Northern cattle would have been a boon. It would have at least afforded them food, shelter and clean straw for bedding. Most of the poor fellows were poorly clad, without blankets, straw or money, s year's pay due them. They were lodged, right in the midst of a severe winter, in Sibley ten s of the smallest pattern. five or six to a tent, without floors or fires, or means of making any, amid deep mud or frozen clods. They were obliged to cook their own food and obtain their own fuel. They slept on the bare ground, or, when it rained, in the mud. Their food was the uninviting ration provided for healthy men. The surgeons only visited the hospital of the camp, and that once a day. As it was full and running over, many who were seriously ill were turned away each

on what they had seen, and the result in money and supplies was the means of keeping the women in the hospitals, where their very presence acted like an elixir to the "boys," Influential women, notably Mrs. Livermore, Mother Bickerdyke, Aunt Becky l'omeroy and Mrs. Harris went to President Lincoln and besought his personal intercession in behalf of better hos-pital service, which was at last secured, but not until thousands of brave lives had been sacrificed.

While the women in the North were stitching prayers in the seams of shirts, bedewing linen bandages with their tears, and reading war news while they held their babies and knitted woolen socks, the no whit braver women who had taken up the work in the South were laying youth, good looks and lives on the alter of loyalty as they braved the rebel bullets, malarial swamp marches and camp fevers. Among the brave camp followers, or "campangels," as the soldiers called them, was Mrs. R. H. Spencer, of New York, who enlisted with her husband, though her sex forbade en-rollment. Her first taste of the life of bardships was on her arrival in Washington, when, in lieu of a bed and room, she slept on a bench outside the door of the "Soidiers' Rest." and when her husband went to the front she went along. She was a daring horsewoman, and, when the troops were under marching orders. she rode her horse, carrying her bedding, cooking utensils, a scauty supply of clothing, and about three hundred and fifty pounds of supplies for the sick. In addition to these, she took charge of huge piles of coats belonging to the weary men. She went on numberless foraging expeditions, and never failed to come back loaded down with delicacies for the sick and wounded, for whom she tenderly cared. At Wind Mill Point, Belle Plain, Gettysburg, and on the Rappahannock, after the Wilderness, Mrs. Spencer and her "horseback hospital" did splendid service. At Murfreesboro, two seminaries, a col-

lege, a large block of stores and ahotel were taken for hospitals, and in these the women did yeoman service. They improvised beds,

day, to remain in their fireless and bediess foraged for supplies, prepared dainty FIELD HOSPITAL SCENE

tents. Of all this Mrs. Livermore said: "Such destitution, squalor and helplessness I never beheld. This was the condition of affairs when the women took hold of the hospital service in 1862, but up to that time, because of no organized effort, not much had been done except to crowd hospital wards with women nurses, who, having no authority, were simply "superior nurses," unable to correct glaring evils, save in a few notable

instances. Mother Bickerdyke, who was in the field as early as May, 1861, would have quarreled with President Lincoln had he opposed her cherished plans, but that he never did. She had to appeal to him patriotic real, there must ever remain a several times over the general of the question of their expediency. A far nobler armies and never failed to get what she wanted. Miss Amy Bradley was another who came near ranking the general. Then, in rapid sussession, come Miss Clara Barton, Mrs. Mary Morris Husband, Mrs. Adelia New, Mrs. Sarah P. Edson, Mrs. Eliza C. Porter, Mrs. Fanny L. Ricketts and Mrs. John Harris. These women went ahead, and did what they thought to be right. They had no desire to be known as lawbreakers, but they tied government red tape into such hard knots that government officials had to cut it into very smal !pieces sometimes to make it cover the depredations of these loyal women, who, week in and week out, for four long years, found their work within hearing of the enemy's guns, and often in sight of them. Sometimes retreating Union lines would leave the rudely-constructed hospitals within range of the enemy's guns, and bursting shells would finish the dread work begun at some earlier period of the engagement. The field hospitals were so crude that they hardly deserved so kind a name, but woman's ministrations helped to make them better. Mrs. Eliza C. Porter, of Illi-

nois, who was closely associated with Mother Bickerdyke in all her work, was with her at the battle of Ringold, Ga., where, at General Logan's beadquarters, they took care of the wounded as they were brought from the field. In an old letter of Mrs. Porter's the following description of these incidents connected with that one field was found: "The hospitals were quickly and roughly prepared in the forest, as near the field as safety would permit. What a scene was presented. Precions sons of Northern mothers, beloved husbands of Northern wives were already here to undergo amputation, to have wounds probed and dressed, or broken limbs set and bandaged. Some were writhing under the surgeon's knife, but bore their sufferings bravely and uncomplainingly. There were many who considered their wounds slight, such as a shot through the hand arm or leg, which, but for the contrast with severer cases, would seem dreadful. Never was presence of women more joyfully welcomed. It was touching to see those precious boys looking up into our faces with such hope and gladness, as Mrs. Beckerdyke and myself assisted in dressing their wounds. We assisted in the operations, too. After doing what we could in hospital No. 1 to render the condition of the poor fellows tolerable, we proceeded to No. 2 and did what we could there, distribnting our sanitary comforts in the most economical manner, so as to make them go as far as possible. We found that what we brought in the ambulance was giving untold comfort to our poor, exhausted, wounded men whose rough hospital couches were made of pine boughs, with the stems cut out, spread upon the ground, over which their blankets were thrown, This forms the bed; the poor fellows blouses, saturated with their own blood is their only pillow, their knapsacks being

left behind, when they went into battle.' WOMEN AT WORK. Out doors, under a burning sun, a camp fire was set burning, and in a kettle such as they could find, and of no great capacity, they made coffee and much, cooked dried fruit and vegetables, toiling unwearjedly through the long, hot days and far into the nights. While caring for the thousands of wounded and dead at this battle these heroic women-who had prototypes in almost every field hospital in the warslept on a bed composed of dry leaves, over which was spread a rubber blanket, with a coarse blanket such as the soldiers carried to cover them. From Kingston, Ga., Mrs. Porter wrote: "We have received, fed and comforted at this hospital during the past week between four thousand and five thousand men, and still they come! All the food and clothing have passed under our supervision, and, indeed, every garment has been given out by our hands. Almost every article of special diet has been cooked by Mrs. Bickerdyke personally, and all has been superintended by her." Mrs. Livermore and Mrs. Hoge went into the field hospitals with the other brave women and made soup, administered med-

icines, prayed with the dying, wrote letters for the helpless, folded quiet hands over pulseless hearts and saw that the dead had decent burial. While these earnest women labored together first in one field and then in another, they thought ont and talked over plans whereby they could bring about reforms in the hospital service in both camp and field. They saw plainly that what was done must be worked out by the people through the channels of the aid societies and the Sanitary Commission. Thousands of women were offering their services as nurses, but, in the chaotic condition of affairs, with the government actually obstructing the way to more efficient work, there was nothing for the women to do and nothing to pay them with if they did work. The government even begrudged them "room and board." The women sent to the seat of war deagainst being sent to them. They will not | cided unanimously that the thing to do | go until they are compelled, and many was to rouse the North to do its duty by

dishes to tempt the poor wounded wretches. held legs and arms while the surgeons sawed them off, washed wounds, held hands while death's shadow crept over mangled bodies, and in every way proved themselves to be ministering angels.

HORRORS OF GETTYSBURG. At Gettysburg the scene after the battle was indescribable, yet into its blooddrenched field went the women on their errand of mercy. The rebels had left eight thousand wounded to the tenderness and mercy of those whose homes, a few days before, they had threatened to burn, and whose government, liberty and Constitution they hoped to see topple into the dust. More than 13,000 lcyal men were wounded. so that on that field were 22,000 suffering. bleeding, dying men. They were in want of everything that can comfort, assuage pain, or lift and illuminate the shadow that came over them as they went down into the dark valley. The two armies had marched for many a long, hot under a broiling sun and through clouds of dust. From June 15, when the federal general broke camp at Falmouth, till the 4th of July, when the issue had been met and decided, it had been one swift succession of long, forced marches, growing longer and more strengous, to end only in the forces being plunged into the bloodiest battle of the war. The sun shope fiercely on the dusty landscape, its rugged ontline splattered with blood and unshaded by a friendly tree. There the 22,000 wounded lay-no food, or help or cheer of any kind except such as the women could give. The medical corps had moved southward with the army, expecting another great battle near the Potomac, and the greater part of the immense duty of caring for all these wounded devolved on voluntary charity, the unpaid goodness of those hundreds of noble souls, both men and women, who were seeking no reward but an approving conscience and the final benediction, "Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of these," While the battle was raging the work of gathering the wounded began, and the field hospitals were soon filled, while all kinds of makeshifts to shelter the wounded and dying were resorted to. It was a noble work, indeed, that the women did here. They made soup by the barrelful, and coffee in the same generous quantity, to revive the famished and thirsty men who were brought in alive, and, as fast as possible, helped to wash and dress the wounded. For four long weeks in that hot July and August they kept up this work, and hundreds of men owe their lives to-day to the person | care of self-sacrificing women, who la ored in the field hospitals at Gettys-Another branch of the hospital service in

which women were the most prominent factors was the "hospital transport" service. When the Army of the Potomac removed from the high lands about Washington to the low, marshy and missmatic region of the Peninsula, it required but little discernment to predict that extensive siekness would prevail among the troops. This, and the certainty of sanguinary battles soon to ensue, which would multiply the wounded beyond all previous precedents, set the Saanitary Commission, and more particularly the women connected with it, to begging the Quartermaster-general to allow the commission to take in hand some of the steamboats of his department, of which a large number were at the time lying idle, to fit them up and furnish them in all respects suitable for the reception and care of sick and wounded men, providing surgeons and other necessary attendance without cost to the government. After tedious delays a grudging consent was given. But the government was vacillating in its management of these vessels, and often took them away from the commission just when partially or whoily fitted up, on the plea of requiring them for some other purpose, and assigning another vessel, often poorly adapted to their service, on board of which the labor of fitting and supply must again be undergone, when that, too, would be withdrawn. The government never did do its duty by its sick and wounded, and what it did accomplish was upon such a red-tape military basis that it was impossible to give the patients anything like home care. A great deal of the time the government hospitals were hardly better than prisons. because of unscrupulous contractors and time-servers who joined issue in treachery and stealing. Owing to this course of the government the hospital transports were often places of fiendish torture.

A SHOCKING PICTURE. Mrs. Harris, who went on board the Vanderbilt at Fair Oaks, which boat was at that time turned over for hospital transport service, described the awful condition of the sick and wounded as follows: "Several women were assigned to each of these hospital boats. And, oh, the work we found ready for us. When we went on the Vanderbilt eight hundred men were on board, and no preparation had been made for them. Passage ways, state rooms, floors, from the dark and fortid hold to the hurricane deck, were all more than filled; some on mattresses, some on blarkets, others on straw; some in the death straggle, others nearing it; some already beyond human sympathy and help; some in their blood as they had been brought from the battleiield of the Sabbath previous, and all hungry and thirsty, not having had anything to eat or drink. except hard crackers, for twenty-four hours. Thus these mammoth floating hospitals were coming in from day to day with their precious cargoes. Without previous lieve they are more comfortable and better North they went. They lectured and wrote director for supplies which it would be ex-

tremely difficult to provide even in our arge cities, and quite impossible here. For God's sake, give us bread,' came from many of the wounded soldiers as we went on board. Others, shot in the face or neck, begged for liquid food. With indignation, shame and sorrow blending, we turned away to see what resources we could muster to meet the demand. A box of tea, a barrel of corn meal, sundry parcels of dried fruits, a few crackers, ginger cakes, dried rusk, sundry jars of jelly and pickles were seized upon. Soldiers and contrabands were impressed into service, all the cooking arrangements of three families appropriated by permission, and soon three pounds of tea were boiling and many gallons of gruel blubbering. In the meantime all the bread we could buy in the town-Old Point Comfort-twenty-five loaves, were cut into alices and jellied, pickles were got in readiness, and in an incredibly short time we were back on the beat with the poor suf-ferers. When we had dealt out nearly all the bread, a surgeon came in and cried. Do please keep some for the poor fellows in the hold; they are so badly off for everything.' So we left the ravenous boys and with the remnant of food remaining threaded our way through the suffering crowd, amid such exclamations as 'Oh please don't touch my foot!' or 'For God's sake don't touch my arm;' another, 'Please don't move the blanket-I'm so terribly cut up,' and on down to the hold, where were 150 very sick men. It was like plunging into a vapor bath, so hot, close, and full of moisture, and so vile with horrible smells. We doled out our bread, pickles, oranges and tea, which was carried around in a bucket; it had sugar, but no milk. Poor, mangled fellows! They were so radiantly gratified for the mean service, but the best that we could give them." Another field filled by women in the hospital service was that of superintendent of

the "diet kitchens." The plan was origmated by Mrs. Annie Wittenmeyer, and she received special orders from the War Department to establish them in all the general hospitals of the government and free transportation for her materials. The design of the kitchen was to have prepared for the men who were under treatment such articles of food and delicacies as are grateful to the sick and at the same time may be allowed with safety. They were first adopted in the Department of the Cumberland, then in that of the Mississippi, and the results were so unexpectedly beneficial that Mrs. Wittenmeyer was asked to extend the work to the Army of the Potomac. This she did in the winter of 1864, and continued it until the war closed. The women who were in this department were many of them from the highest circles of society-educated, refined and accomplished—and they performed their labors under the direction of the surgeons, who appointed their stations and approved their preparations. THE CLOSING SCENES.

The closing scenes in this hospital drama were even more tragic than any that had gone before, and, as in every chapter from the birth to the death, women were there to soothe and succor. The following is from a letter dated at Annapolis, Dec. 8, 1864, where its writer, Mrs. Lydia G. Parrish, was stationed by the Sanitary Commission to matronize the work of caring for the home-coming prisoners: "I was early at the landing, 8 and a half o'clock in the morning, before the boat threw out her ropes for security. The first one brought two hundred bad cases, which the naval surgeon told me should properly go to the hospital near by, were it not that others were coming, every one of whom was in the most wretched condition imaginable. They were, therefore, sent in ambulances to Camp Parole Hospital, distant two miles, after being washed and at the barracks. short time another boatload drew near, and oh! such a scene of suffering humanity I desire never to behold again. The whole deck was a bed of straw for our exhausted, starved, emaciated, dying fellowthe surgeon informed me not over two hundred would survive; tifty had died on the passage, three died while the boat was coming to land. I saw five men dying as they were carried on stretchers from the who stood in line and came up promptly, one after the other, to receive the sufferers as they were carried off the boat. There was no confusion, no noise; all acted with perfert military order. Oh! it was a solemn funeral service to many a brave soldier that was thus being performed by kind hearts and hands.

"Some had become insane; their wild gaze and clinched teeth convinced the observer that reason had fled; others were idiotic; a few lying in spasms; perhaps the realization of the hope long cherished, yet oft deferred, or the welcome sound of the music sent forth by the military band was more than their exhausted nature could bear. When blankets were thrown over them no one would have supposed that a human form lay beneath, save for the small prominences which the bony head and feet indicated. "On! God of justice, what retribution awaits the perpetrators of such slow and awful murder. "The hair of some was matted together, like beasts of the stall, which lie down in their own fifth. Vermis are over them. Nearly every man was darkened by sourvy.

or black with rough scales and with scorbutic sores. One in particular was reduced to the merest skeleton, his face, neck and feet covered with thick green mold. A number who had government clothes given them on the boat were too feeble to put them on, and were carried ashore partially dressed, hugging their clothing with a death grasp that they could not be persuaded to yield. It was not infrequent to hear a man feebly call, as he laid on a stretcher. "Don't take my clothes!" save my new shoes," "Dont let my socks go back to Andersonville." In their wild death struggle, with bony arms and hands extended, they would hold up their new socks, that could not be put on because of their swollen limbs, saying, "Save 'em till I get home. In a little while, however, the souls of many were released from their wornout frames and borne to that higher home where all things are registered for a

great day of account.' Amid scenes like these the loyal women of the North, assisted by a handful of brave Southern sisters, went about doing God's own work in the field, camp and transport hospitals of the war of the rebellion. Hundreds of those who labored thus are nameless in history, but the recording angel keeps a muster roll which there is no gainsaying, and on its clean white pages the names that gleam brightest are those of the self-sacrificing women who did "hospital service" for Uncle Sam.

HOW THE CUMBERLAND WENT DOWN,

Gray swept the angry waves O'er the gallant and the true, Rolled high in mounded graves O'er the stately frigate's crew-Over cannon, over deck. Over all that ghastly wreck-

When the Cumberland went down. Such a roar the waters rent. As though a giant died. When the wailing billows went Above those heroes tried: And the sheeted foam leap'd high, Like white ghosts against the sky-As the Cumberland went down.

Oh! shricking waves that gushed Above that loyal band, Your cold, cold burial rushed O'er many a heart on land; And from all the startled North A cry of pain went forth As the Cumberland went down.

And ancient woods, that gave A thousand years of power To her lordship of the wave And her beauty's regal dower, Bent, as though before a blast, When plunged her pennoned mast, And the Cumberland went down.

And grimy mines that sent To her their virgin strength, And iron vigor lent To knit her lordly length. Wildly stirred with throbs of life Echoes of that fatal strife. As the Cumberland went down.

Beneath the ocean vast Full may a captain bold By many a rolling mast, And admiral of old. Rolled restless in his grave, As he felt the sobbing wave. When the Cumberland went down.

And stern vikings that lay, A thousand years at rest, In many a deep-blue bay Beneath the Baltic's breast, Leap'd on the silver sands, And shook their rusty brands, As the Cumberland went down

Draining welcome in deep bowls To their children, they, the brave, Who had given royal souls A starry flag to save, When decks were blotted red, With the dring and the dead. As the Cumberland went down.

## NATIONAL AND STATE HOMES

Where the Veterans Pass Their Declining Years in Comfort.

The Nation Has Been Generous, and Twenty of the States Have Followed the Example of the Government.

In the matter of caring for its defenders the United States government has been prompt and liberal. Even before the Southern Confederacy had concluded to lie down and die steps had been taken to house and care for the maimed and helpless wrecks of the civil war, and just one month before Lee's surrender President Lincoln signed the bill which insured the noblest testimonial to the brave soldier boys that ever was known in the history of the world. It was the act creating the National Soldiers' Home.

In 1848, after the close of the Mexican war, Gen. Winfield Scott saw that some national asylum for wounded and sick soldiers, such as the Hotel Des Invalides in Paris or the Greenwich Hospital in England, was much needed in this country, and through his efforts the Soldiers' Home in Washington was established. It was at first styled a Military Asylum, and has always been used for the sick and disabled of the regular army, though volunteer veterans are sheltered there at times. On the plan of this first military asylum the National Soldiers' Home was erected.

If the United States is taken for an example it cannot be said that republics are ungrateful. | and heated by natural gas. The grounds are

artists love to picture. From a wide veranda looking the Narragansett bay. The site was in front of the chapel there is a hill to which the survivors of Gargeburg point with pride as being the counterpart of "Lattle Roundtop." The buildings about the home, which is second only to Dayton, have accommodations for over 3,000, and are constructed of a fine red brick made at the home kilus, an industry which is growing. The architecture is Gothic and all modern improvements have been introduced. There is a beautiful little theater with several set of scenery, which was painted by one of the veterans, and excellent companies are booked during the season. The chapel is a reversible affair like Stockton's picture. The Protestant pulpit and Bible occupy one end and the Catholic altar the other. The veterans face the Protestant propounder of the gospel in the morning and in the afternoon flop the seats over, and, resolutely casting all appearance of Protestantism behind them, listen to Catholic doctrine. The novel plan works like a charm. The buildings are all steam heated, and they have their own electric plant, as well as shops for various industries, where the old fellows who can and want may ply their trade. There is a fine library and reading room. One of the striking features of the Leavenworth Home is the beautiful memorial window, a life-size representation of General Grant on horseback. Maybe the old fellows don't say their prayers to it, but there are lots of them who would count it no sin, and some of them never pass it without saluting. The 640 acres comprising the nome grounds were denated by the city of Leavenworth and a bonus of \$50,000.

At Santa Monica, Cal., is another branch called the Pacific Home. It was established on the coast largely for the invalids who need the bracing salt air. It is near Los Angeles, and has accommodations for 700. It is in a subtropical latitude, on a plateau at the foot of the Sierra Madre, and the shimmery silver green of the Pacific, sail dotted and island gemmed, spreads out before it.

The newest branch of the home is at Marion, Ind. It is picturesquely situated on the Mississinews river, a tributary of the Wabash. It comprises twelve handsome stone barracks, with wide verandas around them. It is lighted

first established; it cares for about three hundred. The pretty little home of Colorado is at Monte Vista, where twenty-five old fellows are made comfortable. The bome of far away Washington cares for forty-one veterans at Orting. In the State homes mentioned only the old soidiers are cared for. In three States Nebraska, Wisconsin and Kansas, there are other

rules. In the Nebraska Home at Grand Island the soldiers, sailors, their dependent wives, children and widows were once taken care of. The privileges were disgracefully abused and were curtailed until now only wives, widows and army nurses who have passed fifty can gain admittance. Sixty-seven are cared for. In Wisconsin wives and widows are admitted to the home at Wonpaca, where the cottage system is in vogue. It seems to work admirably.

presented by the citizens of Bristol, It accom-

modates seventy-five veterans. The Connecti-

cut Home at Naroton has splendid quarters

for 300. The New Jersey Home at Kearney

has fine barracks for the 400 inmates. Cali-

fornia's home at Yountville was one of the

The State Home of Kansas is unlike any of the other homes. It is the only State home in which Congress has recognized and provided for others than disabled soldiers and sailors as beneficiaries. It is domiciled in the old Fort Dodge buildings, purchased from the govern-ment for the purpose by Lewis Post of Dodge City. It now comprises 247 acres. The old buildings were constructed nearly twenty-five years ago of brown sandstone taken from sandhill quarries near by. They are grouped in regular barrack fashion along three sides of a rectangle, the fourth sloping gently to the Arkansas river, a few rods distant. The home is run on the family plan. Veterans and their dependent wives, widows and minor children are admitted. The single men have small rooms in the old barracks, which has been nicely fitted up for their comfort, and eat at the mess table. Pretty cottages, now numbering thirty, are fitted up for the families. They are neat one-story structures, with three rooms, closets and cellar. They are completely furnished for occupancy. There is a regular store and storek-eper and the list of edibles furnished embraces everything in the market. green, salted, canned, pickeled or preserved, Each family selects on Saturday what will be needed for the week. There is no limit to quantity or number of articles. There is a good schoolhouse where the fifty children are taught by two teachers. Most of the land is under cultivation. This home has no steam plant, the primitive method of lighting by kerosene is followed and the water power is a windmill. The grounds about the houses and on the parade ground are grass sown, but there are no trees of any size within five miles. Two things strike the stranger, the ocean of unfleaked blue sky, the illim table expanse of billowing prairie, It is truly a frontier soldiers' home. It has accommodations for 200. More than two-thirds of the inmates are women and children. The men are uniformed in blue with a sunflower button. All are clothed, housed, fed and doctored without expense to themselves.

The inmates of the State soldiers' homes number about 6,000; in the National Homeexclusive of the Washington Home-nearly 15,000. As to the inture of the homes, competent official experts predict that the maximum will not be reached before 1895, if even then, In the State homes the maximum will not be reached much before 1895 or later.

SHOTS ON THE SKIRMISH LINE.

Connecticut sent to the war one-tenth of her population and 13,000 more than her quota The Fifth Army Corps participated in eighty-

six battles and beats the record. No flag can contain them all. General Phil Kearney was the first American

officer ever decorated with the legion of honor by Emperor Napoleon. Jan. 20, 1861, Jefferson Davis and the other Senators from Mississippi, Alabama and Flor-

ida, withdrew from the Senate of the United Etias Hepner, who was shot and killed in a row in Leadville, Col., in 1881, was the last rebel to lay down his arms. He was a Tennes-

tories. Each member is allowed the greatest see guerrilla. personal liberty compatible with good order The Fifty-sixth Ohio and Thirty-fourth Indiana regiments took the first battery at the battle of Port Gibson, and to them is accorded the first victory in the Vicksburg campaign. at meals in the great dining hails. The East-Governor Harris, of Tennessee, in reply to President Lincoln's first call for 75,000 men said: "Tennessee has not one man for coercion, but fifty thousand for the defense of her South-

ern brethren." The first time during the war that a passenger train was captured and robbed was in February, 1864, when the rebels got hold of the Baltimore express train for Wheeling, near Kearbright as a new penny, are used for cooking neysville, W. Va.

vegetables and the ranges are leviathans. An The most daring and desperate act of the war by any battery has been credited by both Union and confederates to Battery D. Fifth United States Artillery, and occurred at the tacks, which locate to a splinter the exact posi-

battle of Spottsylvania, May 13, 1864, When the war broke out there were six hundred officers in the regular army of the United States, and 269 of them resigned their commissions and entered the confederacy army, forming nearly the whole staff of that army.

The first woman killed in the war was Mrs. Judith Henry, a confirmed invalid of eighty. Her home, the home of the Henrys for nearly a century, stood nearly in the center of the battlefield of first Bull Run and the house was riddled with shot and shell. Mrs. Henry was killed by an exploding shell, and was buried on the west side of the farm, where her son still lives and keeps her grave bright with flowers.

On the 13th of February, 1861, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, John C. Breckinridge, Vice President of the United States, declared Abraham Lincoln duty elected President of the United States. Mr. Breckintidge had himself been a formidable candidate in that memorable race for the presidency as the representative of a faction which had predetermined to make that election the occasion of breaking in pieces the government of which they had so long had almost ab-

Hoke Smith's Action.

Philadelphia Press. Secretary lioke Smith's change in his pension policy is a little belated. It should have been made when the first case arose under it, as the injustice of cutting off a man's pension, without giving him a chance to defend it is self-evident and most flagrant. Now that it is resolved to suspend no one except his papers show on their face that he is not entitled to a pension, the Pension Bureau should in decency and justice restore all the pensioners who have been suspended without a hearing and on other grounds than the insufficiency of their papers. When men are do this they ought to be cut off the pension list, but the fact that they are unlawfully enrolled should be indubitably established before the knife falls. If the papers in the case show conclusively that the beneficiary is drawing a pension to which he has no lawful claim, that is sufficient reason for striking his name immediately from the pension roll. But with the Pension Office In hostile hands there is reason to fear that technical and unsubstantial defects in the papers will be held a sufficient reason for

The Real Literary Center,

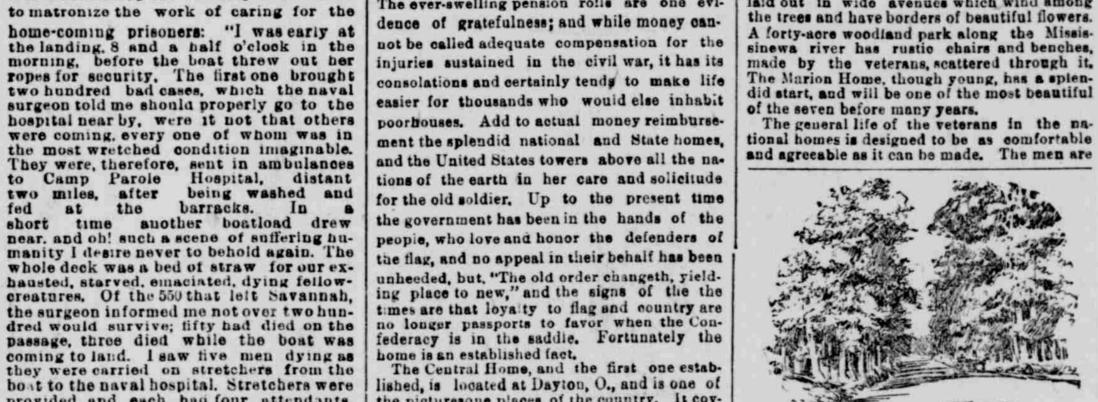
Minneapolis Tribune. The Boston papers want to know where the literary center is if it has forsakes Boston. Like the population center, it is somewhere in Indiana. If you doubt it ask the fellow townsmen of Lew Wallace or James Whitcomb Kiley.

The Considerate Quincy.

A Southern Prediction,

The country is too big to hold together.





The Central Home, and the first one estabboat to the naval hospital. Stretchers were | lished, is located at Dayton, O., and is one of provided, and each had four attendants, | the picturesque places of the country. It covers nearly a section of land and has accommodations for 5,000 veterans. A more ideally beautiful spot never existed. The grounds are diversified with parks and lakes, caves and grottoes. Fountains sparkle in the sunlight and flowers of all hues brighten every portion of the domain, which is traversed by thirtytwo miles of broad avenues, each one named for a State. The buildings are elegantly designed, and as nearly as possible are perfect in sanitary and scientific appliances. The Dayton Home is a small government in itself, ruled by a Governor. It has everything that goes to make a first-class city, with the industries of a city, including hospitals, chapels, postoffice,



Barracks of Marion, Ind., Home,

ting, harness, paint, shoe, suspender and tailor shops. There is a library with over eighteen thousand volumes in it, and newspapers from all over the world; they have a fine theater, a hookbindery and a printing office. The buildings are steam heated and lighted with natural gas. Wide verandas around the pavilions, hospital and barracks afford delightfully cool retreats in summer. The hospital has ample accommodation and skilled attendants, and if surroundings have any effect the old buliet wounds and saber stashes have strong rivals for attention inside the well-kept wards.

For amusements there is the museum, the art gallery, billiard hall, shooting gallery, indeed it matters not what the predilection the man must be worse than a crank who fails to find his soul's sincere desire some place about that splendid home.

THE NATIONAL BRANCHES.

There are six branches of the National Home, the far Eastern one being at Togus, Me., where 2.500 men can be taken care of. Its grounds are artistic, and a well-kept deer park is one of its prominent features. There are also fine greenhouses.

The Southern Home is at Hampton, Va. This is the place for the veterans whose lungs don't enjoy the rigors of Northern winters.



The buildings are historic. A marble slab set in the wall in one of the galleries relates that it was dedicated in 1854 as the "Chesapeake Female Seminary." The buildings are low. old-fashioned affairs and the grounds are washed by the blue Atlantic. There are about 2 500 veterans there, and always a long list waiting a transfer to Hampton. The Milwaukee Home, which cares for about

2,500, is known as the Northern branch. It is in a wildly picturesque country, among thickly wooded hills, and comprises 400 acres. These grounds cost \$100,000, and every dollar of the money was raised by the loya women of Milwaukee and turned over to the government as an inducement to locate the home there. The buildings are massive but plain, and stand in the center of well arranged grounds, brightened with flowers, fountains and lakes.

The Western branch is near Fort Leavenworth, in Kansas, in a picturesque and healthy | Home at Chelsea has accommodations for spot, It stands high up on wooded hills over- something over two hundred. looking the Missouri river, and gives a view of The Phode Island Home comprises 110 acres. It is not pleasing to "loyal" cars to hear an expanse of prairie and upland dells such as on the historic hills back of Bristol and over. this, but it appears to be true.

tard pot. The inmates are in no case compelled to work, although in each branch are workshops where the mechanical arts are pursued with HELD ESCHOLOUS TO MARKET HELD IN HELD

Black Avenue, Marion, Ind., Home

uniformed in the army blue, housed, fed, at-

tended when ill and supplied with all the

creature comforts and mental entertainments

practicable in such circumstances. On rising

the veterans take breakfast, then stroll about,

smoke, read, chat or play games till dinner.

After that the lounge and amuse themselves at

will till suppertime. Then they spend a few

hours in various diversions, and in due time

retire to comfortable beds in well-aired dormi-

It is an interesting sight to see the veterans

ern branch dining room seats 680 men at once,

the Central 2,028, the Wettern 1,100, and the

others somewhat less. The bill of fare has

everything in its season and is changed weekly.

The hospital fare is in charge of the surgeon.

Most of the old fellows never were so well fed

before in their lives. The kitchens where the

food is prepared for the larger homes are

ox would feel lonesome in the cavernous

ovens. The dining rooms are as clean as

scoured hard wood can be made, and the long

rows of tables are set with precision only made

possible by the visible presence of brass-headed

tion of plate, bowl, caster, sirup cup and mus-

worth a visit. Huge copper cauldrons, as

and the general welfare.

proper compensation by those so inclined. Unfortunately the majority will not work and can't be induced to. The consequent lack of occupation and purpose makes the men mental and physical wrecks long before their time. STATE HOMES.

Beside the seven branches of the National Home there are twenty States that have established State homes, where the sick and disabled veterans within the borders are taken care of, housed, fed, clothed and doctored exactly as in the national institutions. Among the first established was the Iowa

State Home, located at Marshalltown.

flowers interspersed. It has lit a y, chapel, places of amusement, ambulance for the veterans to ride in and its roomy buildings in which about 400 are cared for are constructed on strictly scientific plans. The State Soldiers' Home of New York is at Bath, and its spacious and haudsome buildings accommodate 900 veterans. The State Home at Quincy. III., is a so a beautiful piace where 850 veterans in comfort and quiet await the muster out. The South Dakota Home is at Hot Springs, in the midst of a ruguedly picturesque landscape. It is about 3,500 feet above sea level and its hundred inmates have the benefit of the wonderful hot medicinal springs. Its one big building is a substantial affair of fine white sandstone and can accommodate 225 men. The State Home of Minnesota is at Minnehaha. No art can enhance or strengthen the impressiveness of the scene in which the home is set. Its 150 inmates ought to be happy. The Michigan Home, with substantial barracks for 500, is located at Grand Rapids. The Ohio State Home at Sandusky is one of the show spots of the State. Its fine blue limestone buildings quarter 800 veterans. Pennsylvania's home at Erie takes care of about 500. The Vermont Home at Bennington has fifty inmates. The New Hampshire Home at Tilton has about the same number as Vermont. The Woman's Relief Corps of the State furnished the quarters in

good substantial style. The Massachusetts

Marshalltown Home,

solute control.

buildings are of beautiful design and artistic finish, surrounded by grounds laid out in avenues and graveled paths with fountains and drawing a pension without a legal right to throwing out meritorious and rightful pen-

New York Commercial Advertiser. Josiah Quincy would resign in a minute, don't you know, only he is so afraid the country could not get along without him.

Charleston News and Cour er.